

1 CLAIMS

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Sub A. 3

1. A connector for connecting a first tubular to a second tubular; the connector comprising a first portion on the first tubular and a second portion on the second tubular, wherein the first and second portions each have axially extending portions which in the assembled connector are mutually parallel.

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2. A connector as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the first and second portions have mutually engaging threaded portions.

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3. A connector as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the axially extending portions are unthreaded.

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4. A connector as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the axially extending portions are load-bearing and allow the transfer of loads between the tubulars.

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5. A connector as claimed in Claim 4 wherein two axially extending portions are provided on each tubular.

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6. A connector as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the first axially extending portion on each tubular is greater in length than the second axially extending portion on each tubular.

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7. A connector as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the axially extending portions on each tubular are provided above and below the threaded portion.

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1 8. A connector as claimed in Claim 7 wherein a
2 spigot and a socket comprise the axially extending
3 portions on each tubular.
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5 9. A connector as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the
6 spigot is provided between the tubular's threaded
7 face and terminus.
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9 10. A connector as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the
10 spigot on the first tubular engages the socket on
11 the second tubular.
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13 11. A connector as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the
14 spigot on the second tubular engages the socket on
15 the second tubular.
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17 12. A connector as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the
18 first tubular comprises a pin connector.
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20 13. A connector as claimed in Claim 12 wherein the
21 second tubular comprises a box connector.
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23 14. A connector as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the
24 socket of the first tubular and spigot on the second
25 tubular are greater in length than the socket of the
26 second tubular and spigot of the first tubular.
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28 15. A connector as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the
29 axially extending portions are parallel to the axis
30 of the tubulars.
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1 16. A connector as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the
2 first and second tubulars have a tapered profile.

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4 17. A connector as claimed in Claim 16 wherein the
5 tapered portions of the first and second tubulars
6 are the threaded portions of the first and second
7 tubulars and have co-operating tapers to facilitate
8 mating of the two portions.

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10 18. A method for connecting a first tubular to a
11 second tubular the method comprising the steps of-
12 gripping a first tubular at a position spaced
13 from its terminus;
14 engaging the first and second tubulars;
15 gripping the second tubular; and
16 applying torque between the tubulars.

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